



APOPO (Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling - Anti-Personnel Landmines Removal Product Development) trains African giant pouched rats to detect the scent of commonly trafficked wildlife products, including pangolin scales. Photo courtesy of APOPO.

EAST AFRICA

REDUCING MARITIME TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE BETWEEN AFRICA AND ASIA

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) project Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia is a \$4 million partnership initiative aimed to curb maritime wildlife trafficking, targeting key routes and transit points between Africa and Asia. Implemented by UNDP since 2018, the project is part of the GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP). In 2021, the project was expanded through funding from USAID.

OUR WORK

Illegal wildlife trade is among the five most lucrative illegal trades globally and estimated to be worth up to \$23 billion annually. Traffickers use legitimate transport, logistics services and commercial trade routes to illegally move wildlife and their products from source to consumer countries. Most illegal wildlife goods (70-90 percent by volume) are trafficked by sea, in containerized cargo due to minimal risk of interception and arrest. To address the issue, the project is focused on Mombasa, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar seaports, as well as Kampala dry port. The project strengthens the capacity of law enforcement agencies and coordination with the private sector to prevent, detect and intercept wildlife trafficking.

It further aims to improve cooperation between ports in Africa and Asia, including through coordination and knowledge exchange with projects under the Global Wildlife Program.

OUR IMPACT

- 130 participants from government agencies, private sector, international organizations, and NGOs took part in the Port Stakeholder Workshops organized in Dar es Salaam (July 2019) and Mombasa (October 2019). The workshop participants identified key gaps at the ports and developed sets of practical recommendations to improve prevention and interception of wildlife trafficking through a collaborative inter-agency and inter-sectoral approach.
- An automated container risk profiling system (developed by Vietnam Customs) was introduced to the Dar es Salaam Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU). The system effectively profiles thousands of containers in a matter of minutes and detects suspicious cargo that is likely to contain wildlife and other

contraband.

- JPCU at Zanzibar Port was officially established in 2021. The Unit is staffed by nine officers from four government agencies.
- 18 officers from the Mombasa and Dar es Salaam JPCUs successfully completed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-WCO Container Control Programme advanced training on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, wildlife crime intelligence, and risk profiling.
- 140 participants, including 57 women (41%) from more than 44 private sector and 28 government organizations completed live sessions of the course "*Ports & The Supply Chain: Awareness and security measures to prevent illegal wildlife trade*" developed by the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS). The course is available for private sector and government stakeholders and 390 individuals enrolled in the online academy to complete the ICS course through self-study.
- The draft of International Maritime Organization (IMO) *Guidelines for the Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Wildlife on Ships engaged in International Maritime Traffic* was developed, discussed with stakeholders, and prepared for submission to the IMO Facilitation Committee (FAL) in February 2022.
- Forensic analysis of two large-scale (totaling 12,100 kg) and seven additional African ivory seizures by the University of Washington, provided the US Homeland Security Investigation, Kenya Wildlife Service, Uganda Revenue Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Singapore National Parks Board, and Singapore Customs with critical evidence for successful investigation and prosecution of transnational wildlife trafficking gangs.
- The Port Monitoring and Anti-Trafficking Evaluation (PortMATE) tool, reshaped by the project, has been successfully applied for express assessments of ports and border posts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (under the USAID Central Africa Program for the Environment), the Philippines and Pakistan.
- A draft of 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) legal framework for export/import agents in the Kenya Maritime Commercial Transport Operations Regulation was produced. The draft is ready for discussion with other government agencies in Kenya in 2022.
- 69 project team members (48% women) from GWP national projects in Africa (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) were trained on Conservation Storytelling through a 5-session online training series.
- Four photo stories have been published: 1) [*Combating the Illegal Wildlife Trade: Disrupting maritime trafficking of wildlife through African seaports*](#); 2) [*Turning the Tide: How shipping companies are accelerating action against wildlife trafficking*](#); 3) [*Women Fighting Wildlife Crime: Celebrating women around the world who are leading the charge to protect local wildlife*](#); and 4) [*Forensics for Wildlife: Analyzing DNA from seized elephant ivory adds teeth to the fight against the illegal wildlife trade*](#). These have cumulatively received 29,448 views and 4,307 likes.

BUDGET: \$4,000,000

DURATION: 2018-2023

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda

KEY PARTNERS

United Nations Development Programme
Global Environment Facility

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